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April 8, 2005

The Honorable Henry Bonilla  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies Appropriations  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am writing to request your support for a children's nutrition research project in the FY2006 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

My request is for the Children's Nutrition Research Center at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas to maintain FY2005 funding levels. Funding for this project will continue the research for utilizing genotyping in order to identify genetic variations within children that are predisposed to developing obesity at an accelerated rate. Childhood obesity is currently a leading threat to the health of future generations of Americans and it is imperative to understand the genetic, biochemical, and behavioral origins of childhood obesity in order to correct this growing trend.

Additionally, I would like to request accompanying bill language for the Children's Nutrition Research Center that would prevent excessive assessment fees and help the Center to retain a greater amount of its designated funding.

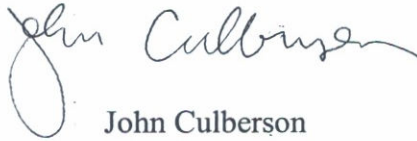
#### General Provisions

SEC. 7xx. Hereafter, no funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against Agricultural Research Service cooperative human nutrition centers that exceed 5 percent of the total funds provided by such agency to these centers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, hereafter no other assessments or costs may be imposed on these centers, unless mutually agreed to, other

than direct costs (as currently construed): *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated hereafter to the Agricultural Research Service for salaries and expenses, an amount equal to 2 percent of the funds made available to these centers shall be used to compensate employees working exclusively or nearly exclusively on agency research priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Culberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

John Culberson  
Member of Congress